
Regimental Command Sergeant Major

Many years ago, the US Army Chemical Corps introduced its first regimental command sergeant major (RCSM). Command Sergeant Major Bobby Weston was appointed in June of 1986 and assumed the duties of shaping and developing our Corps. Command Sergeant Major Weston served until July 1988. Since then, many professional senior noncommissioned officers have served at the helm, steering the Chemical Corps into the transformation of the future.

The past has propelled the Corps, and the vision of our former leaders has equipped Dragon Soldiers with the ability to conduct transformational business in the millennium through the plans, ideas, and leadership of former regimental command sergeants major: Wayne Bricker (1988 to 1989), John Roberts (1989 to 1991), Larry Nettles (1991 to 1992), Carl Lyons (1992 to 1994), Richard Garrett (1994 to 1997), James Van Patten III (1997 to 2001), James Barkley (2001 to 2002), and Peter Hiltner (2002 to 2004).

As the 10th Regimental Command Sergeant Major of the Chemical Corps, it is a distinct honor and privilege to serve our Corps in this capacity. The Chemical Corps is heavily engaged in onward movement and upward mobility, and I am honored to be a part of the planning and motivated to play a vital role in what is transpiring.

I have heard the saying, “There are three types of people: those who make things happen, those who watch what happens, and those who wonder what happened.” As the Corps moves forward, conduct an assessment of your involvement and summarize what type of person you are. Base your assessment on the values-based system that is housed in our warrior ethos and transformational Army.



**Command Sergeant Major
Patrick Z. Alston**

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The forward movement of the Corps has instituted an abundance of firsts. In June of 2003, the Chemical Corps was short almost 500 sergeants. The Corps had just over 1,300 specialists—with 450 in the primary zone, 515 in the secondary zone, and 115 on the sergeant promotion list. As a result of the automatic promotion of sergeants in March 2005, military occupational specialty 74D is now short only 97 sergeants. And the Chemical Corps was instrumental in gaining approval for this policy. Additionally, Jackeline Fountain was appointed to the rank of command sergeant major, making a mark as the first female in the history of the Corps to be appointed to the rank. And Terry Fountain became the 13th Corps Support Command (COSCOM) Command Sergeant Major, another first for the Chemical Corps. For the first time, Chemical Corps personnel hold three nominative-level command sergeant major positions and five brigade level positions.

The activity of Corps members is evident in the participation at last year's Regimental Review and Green Dragon Ball. More than 900 personnel attended—the largest attendance of any ball celebrated at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. The Chemical Corps Regimental Association (CCRA) has reduced the lifetime membership fee from \$300 to \$99 and now has an all-time membership high of 650. I urge you to get involved in the Corps!

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“You may be wondering where our journey will take us next or what is in store for our Regiment in the future. As the Army evolves into a new era of modularity, so must the Chemical Corps evolve. We are focused more than ever on the full spectrum of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear defense. We are no longer looking just at the traditional CBRN threat. The enemy has advanced in its technology, so we must adapt. We have revamped our doctrine and expanded our training. Dragon Soldiers now find themselves executing and advising on new missions of base defense and convoy security, as well as occupational health and environmental hazards—all in the context of joint and combined warfare. Many are performing these missions on this very day, and they continue to show the knowledge, passion, and dedication required to excel. They are making the journey personal!

“With this in mind, we will continue to develop doctrine and equipment to further our relevance and capabilities in the current operational environment. New systems such as the Stryker NBC recon vehicle, the Joint Biological Standoff Detection System, and the Chemical Unmanned Ground Recon System are just a few that will afford us more capabilities than we’ve ever had before. We will not stop or even pause. Our journey continues.

“As our first chief, Major General Sibert said, ‘I speak with some experience when I say that there is no field in which the future possibilities are greater than in chemical warfare and no field in which neglect to keep abreast of the times in research and training would be more disastrous.’ With that in mind, we will continue to develop, change, and expand our missions, equipment, and training to ensure we can support our Army and our Nation in any conflict or situation in our future.

“Dragon Soldiers, remember no matter what new technology is developed or what new capability is achieved, it would all be irrelevant without those of you standing in the gap today. You are the Chemical Corps’ ultimate system, you are the 21st-century capability, and you are the key we cannot fight without. But you must have a passion, a drive, a burning desire in your gut, and love in your heart for our business. You must take it personally! For our Regimental history is the sum of the personal journeys of all Dragon Soldiers who have gone before, and it is because of our personal journeys each day that the Regiment is as vital and strong as it has ever been throughout our history.

“It has been 87 years, a long journey in human years, but a relatively short journey in the history of mankind. We celebrate our past but must look to the future to write the next chapter. The journey does not stop now. We cannot afford to stop or even pause.

“We have seen where we came from and know where we are in the present. I promise our journey into the future will be exciting, fast-paced, and involve full-spectrum CBRN missions, training, and equipment. Make it personal! *Elementis Regamus Proelium.*”



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The Command Sergeant Major George L. Murray Award, a new program to honor the top noncommissioned officer and the top junior enlisted Soldier in the Chemical Corps was initiated this year (see *Corps Honors Top Enlisted Soldiers*, page 36). The first recipient of the NCO of the Year Award was Staff Sergeant Travis Dauer, 21st Chemical Company (Airborne), Division Support Command, 82d Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The first recipient of the Soldier of the Year Award was Specialist Marcos Silva, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 84th Chemical Battalion, Fort Leonard Wood. Many civilian vendors contributed to make the award process a success, enabling us to see involvement in the Corps like never before.

We presented Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston with the Chemical Corps’ highest award, the Order of the Dragon. Sergeant Major of the Army Preston is the first SMA to receive the award at Fort Leonard Wood.

As the Corps continues to drive forward with onward movement and upward mobility, I urge each and every Dragon Soldier to get on board—the train only stops momentarily, but the opportunities to get involved are abundant. The future of the Corps looks great! We are engaged and prepared to meet every operation and contingency. We are, and will continue to be, the Corps of the future!